

them of various breeds. The finest cargo I ever saw came from Boston, U.S. They were almost all from high-bred mares, and many of them showed as much blood as thorough-bred horses, and they were as active as deer. I do not remember whether I mentioned them to you in my last; but, if I did not, I shall be very happy to give you a description of the various breeds of mules and asses employed in this colony. About three years ago the murrain cut off about nine-tenths of our horned cattle. In the herds attacked, not above one per cent. escaped, and they were generally old ones. A few months since it broke out again, and has cut off several fine herds without leaving a single head. It is said, I believe with truth, that it arose from the removal of a dung-heap in which some had been buried three years ago. It is stated that pigs are subject to it, but that it is much less fatal among them than with oxen, but I am not at all satisfied of the identity of the disease. It is also asserted that goats, sheep and deer are liable to its attacks, but having examined several goats said to have died of it when it was so prevalent here, I found no case in which the murrain was the cause of death, there being other evident causes.

"I do not know if you are aware that ipecacuanha, of which we have a wild variety very plentiful here, is a deadly and speedy poison to ruminating animals. It often happens that foreign cows, goats and sheep perish from eating it, but the natives very rarely touch it. A few leaves of it are sufficient to kill a goat in four or five hours." * * *

A Comparison between Sterna Cantiaca, Gm., of Europe, and Sterna acufflava, nobis, hitherto considered identical with S. Cantiaca, and a description of a new species of Wren. By Dr. CABOT.

The following measurements from adult, full-plumaged specimens were given :

American.	Millimetres.	European.
Bill along ridge	49	57
" " gape	64	75
From the nostril to the point of the bill	36	41
Length of nostril.....	6	9
Length of lower mandible along the centre (measuring to the feathers)	41	47
Length of do. do. along the side, do. do.	51	62
Width of bill at commencement of feathers	8	7½
Depth of do. do. do.	11¼	12½
Length of wing from flexure	290	317
Length of tail to tips of lateral feathers	136	149
Length of tarsus	25	28
Middle toe without the claw	18	21
Middle claw	7½	9
Inner toe with claw	17	20
Outer do. do.	21	26
Thumb.....	6½	8½

Besides these differences in the measurement of parts not subject to change from improper stuffing, &c., we find that the colouring differs in some very important particulars. In the American bird the yellow is strictly confined to the tip of the bill, and the line of union of the yellow and black is perpendicular and unbroken, whereas in

the European bird the yellow runs up to the inner edge of the symphysis on the under side of the lower mandible, and almost as far on the upper edge; and on the upper mandible, also, it extends both on the edges and on the ridge much higher than in the American bird. The primaries are much darker in the American bird than in the European, and the white line which runs along the inner edges and forms their tips in the European bird, disappears in the American before it gets within half an inch of the tip; besides being much narrower. There are also some important differences in form. The projecting point at the symphysis on the under side of the lower mandible is more marked in the American than in the European bird. The claws of the European bird are larger and much more arched than those of the American. The bill of the European bird is much narrower in proportion than the American, and is more bent.

The specimen of *S. acuflavida* in his collection was procured at Tancah, on the coast of Yucatan, on the 25th of April, 1842, and is mentioned in the appendix of Mr. Stephens's Incidents of Travel in Yucatan, under the name of *S. Boysii*.

Troglodytes albinucha, a new species of Wren.

	Millimetres.
Total length	140
Length of wing from flexure	58
" tail	51
" head and bill	38
" bill along the ridge	17
" bill along the gape	22
Width of bill at feathers	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Depth " "	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Length of tarsus	20
" middle toe with the claw.....	22
" inner toe	15
" outer toe	16
" thumb	17

The bill is bent from the base to the tip. The claws are much curved and very sharp. The head, back, and upper sides of the wings and tail, brown; a line of white, with black or dark brown intermixed, passes over the eye, and meets with a similar line, which passes under it, and they form a patch on the sides of the neck extending round to the nape. Chin, throat and breast white; flanks and abdomen light yellowish brown, darkest near vent. On the rump are some white and dark brown or black spots intermixed with the brown of the rest of the back. Under tail-coverts, the outermost, and outer webs of next three tail-feathers, and outer edges of first and second primaries, barred with white or yellowish white and dark brown or black. There are many black bars running across upper side of wings and upper tail-coverts. The four middle tail-feathers are brown, with many black spots. The upper mandible is dark horn-colour; the under mandible is the same at its tip, but is almost white on the under side and at base. The fourth and fifth primaries are longest and the first is shortest.

The specimen from which the description was taken was the only one observed, and was procured near Yalahao, in Yucatan, April 6th, 1842.—*Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. Nov. 17, 1847, p. 257.*